



The HECB seeks applicants from municipalities and counties who want to form Health Sciences and Services Authorities

Cities, towns, and counties in Washington – like those in many regions of the United States – have the potential to develop their health sciences and service industries in a time of growing need and interest in preventative treatment and public health and safety issues.

A law passed by the 2007 State Legislature offers local jurisdictions in Washington counties with less than one million people the opportunity work with the state's higher education institutions to form Health Sciences and Services Authorities (HSSAs).

These authorities, backed by a diversion of local sales and use tax revenues, will promote bioscience-based economic development and advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health. Taxes diverted to the HSSA are revenue neutral, and will be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the Department of Revenue.

For example, an HSSA could use their resources to build a multi-user laboratory for research and development of new health-related products and services, or to expand their health education capacity.

Under the new law, one HSSA has been authorized for designation in 2008. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will conduct a competitive process to determine the new HSSA. A solicitation for applications will be posted on the HECB Web site and distributed by e-mail on or about November 9, 2007. **Local jurisdictions wishing to apply must submit their application by December 31, 2007.** Applications will be processed within 60 days of their submission.

Applicants must demonstrate they meet certain criteria, including the presence of:

- Infrastructure capable of spurring development of the area as a center of health sciences and services;
- Higher education facilities where undergraduate or graduate coursework and research is conducted; and
- Facilities in which health services are provided.

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Information also is available at: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/EconomicVitalitypage.asp>